

APPENDIX A

2012 Idaho Elk Hunter Opinion Survey

Elk Hunting in Idaho



Understanding the needs
and experiences of hunters

Take this survey online – save your time and our printing and postage costs!

Go to: <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/idfg>

Conducted by:

Department of Conservation Social Sciences

University of Idaho

College of Natural Resources

For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game



First, some questions about your general hunting behavior.

1. About how many years have you hunted in Idaho? (Please enter number of years)

_____ YEARS

2. How often do you hunt each of the following game species in Idaho?

<u>GAME SPECIES</u>	How often do you hunt the following species in Idaho? (Please circle one response for each species)			
A. Black Bear	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
B. Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat (one in a lifetime)	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
C. Mountain Lion	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
D. Mule Deer	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
E. Pronghorn	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
F. Upland Game/ Birds	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
G. White-tailed Deer	NEVER	SOME YEARS	MOST YEARS	EVERY YEAR
H. Wolf	NEVER	2009-2010	2011-2012	

Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

3. About how many years have you hunted Elk in Idaho? (Please enter the number of years)

_____ YEARS

4. Please circle those years that you did hunt Elk in Idaho during the past 7 years? (Please circle all that apply)

2011 2010 2009 2008 2007 2006 2005

5. If you did not hunt Elk in Idaho for 2 or more years during the past 7 years (2005 through 2011), please tell us why.
(Please circle the letters of all that apply).

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. POOR HEALTH | H. ACCESS LIMITATIONS |
| B. WORK SCHEDULE | I. THE SEASON LENGTH |
| C. FAMILY OBLIGATIONS | J. THE TIMING OF THE SEASON |
| D. LOW ELK NUMBERS | K. TOO MUCH OHV ACTIVITY |
| E. I HUNTED OTHER GAME SPECIES | L. TOO MANY HUNTERS |
| F. NO HUNTING PARTNER | M. OTHER (<i>please explain</i>) |
| G. I COULDN'T AFFORD IT | |
-

6. Of those you circled in Q-5, which ONE was the most important reason you did not hunt Elk during those years?

Enter ONE letter (A-M) from the list in Q-5: _____


7. Excluding your travel to and from your home, how often do you use the following mode of transportation when you hunt Elk in Idaho?

TRAVEL MODE	How often do you use each travel mode when hunting Elk in Idaho? (Please circle one response for each mode of travel)			
	NEVER	SOMETIMES	USUALLY	ALWAYS
A. Car/truck				
B. Horse/pack animals				
C. Mountain bike				
D. OHV				
E. On foot				

8. What type of weapon do you typically use to hunt Elk in Idaho? (Please check only one response)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHOTGUN | <input type="checkbox"/> INLINE MUZZLELOADER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RIFLE | <input type="checkbox"/> COMPOUND BOW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANDGUN | <input type="checkbox"/> RECURVE OR LONGBOW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRADITIONAL MUZZLELOADER | <input type="checkbox"/> CROSSBOW |

9. Which of the following Idaho Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons did you hunt in during the last 7 years (2005-2011)? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ NONE, I ONLY HUNTED ELK WITH A RIFLE →→→ PLEASE CONTINUE WITH Q-11, ON THE NEXT PAGE.
- ☐ I HUNTED IN ARCHERY-ONLY SEASONS
- ☐ I HUNTED IN SHORT-RANGE WEAPON SEASONS
- ☐ I HUNTED IN MUZZLELOADER-ONLY SEASONS
- 

10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt in Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?

REASONS FOR ARCHERY, SHORT-RANGE
WEAPONS OR MUZZLELOADER
HUNTING

How important was each reason for hunting in Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?
(Please circle one response for each reason)

A. To increase the challenge.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
B. To hunt when fewer hunters are a-field.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
C. To improve my chance of harvesting an Elk.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
D. To expand my hunting season.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
E. To hunt in a zone where rifle Elk hunting opportunity is limited.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
F. For the adventure.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
G. To engage in traditional forms of hunting.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
H. To build my confidence as an Elk hunter.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
I. To hunt Elk during the rut.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

11. What has been your Elk harvesting success in Idaho? (Please check all that apply)

☐ I HAVE NEVER HARVESTED AN ELK IN IDAHO. →→ Please continue with Q-12, below.

☐ I HARVESTED ELK IN IDAHO IN: (Circle all the years that you harvest an Elk in Idaho)

2011 2010 2009 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002

12. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would you react? (Please check only one response)

NOT MISS IT AT ALL	MISS IT A LITTLE	MISS IT SOMEWHAT	MISS IT CONSIDERABLY	MISS IT A GREAT DEAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

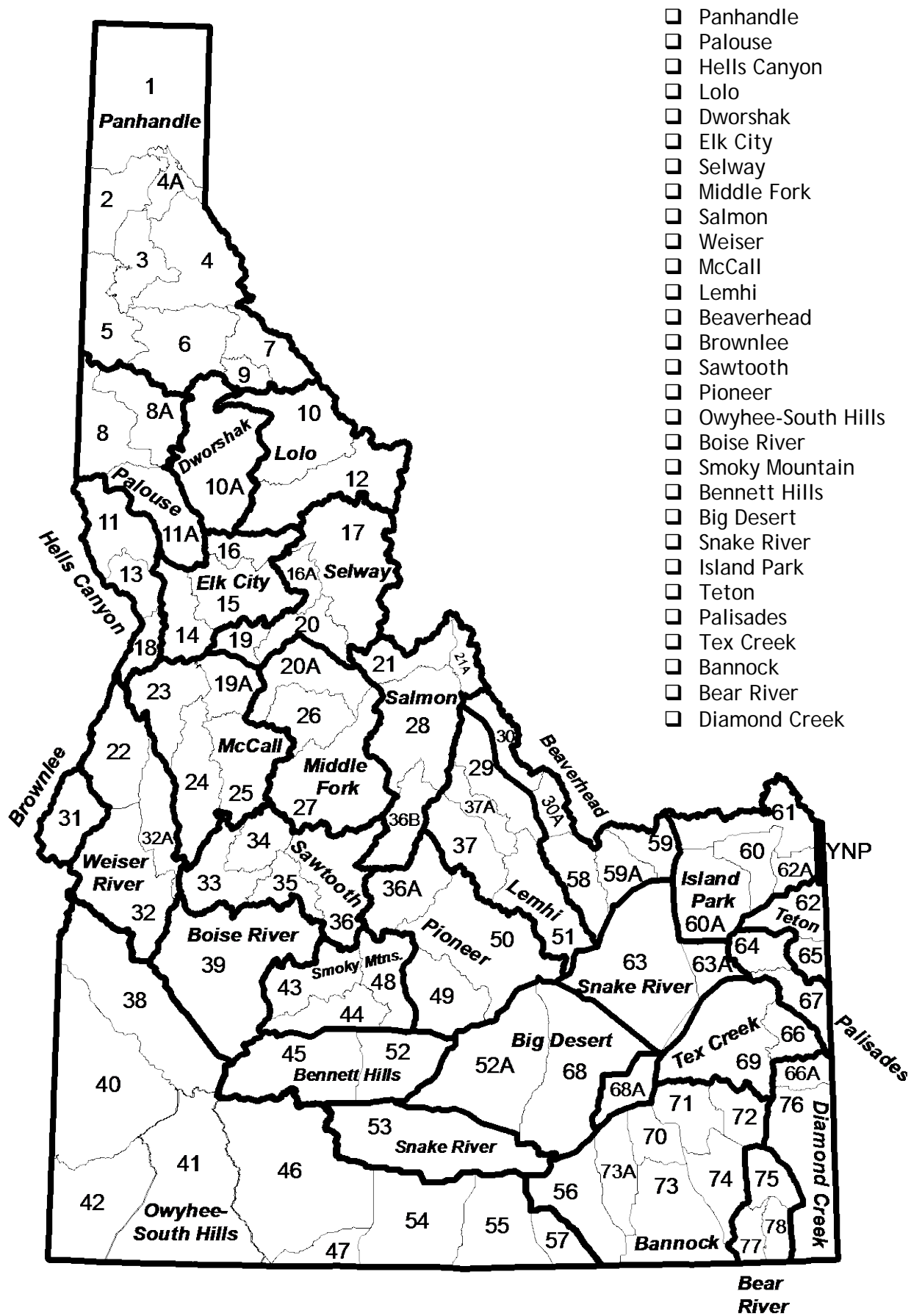
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho how would your hunting change?

<u>CHANGES TO YOUR HUNTING</u>		If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho how would your hunting change? (Please check one response for each change)			
A. I would hunt waterfowl more.	VERY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	NEITHER UNLIKELY NOR LIKELY	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY
B. I would hunt upland game more.	VERY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	NEITHER UNLIKELY NOR LIKELY	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY
C. I would spend more time hunting other big game.	VERY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	NEITHER UNLIKELY NOR LIKELY	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY
D. I would hunt Elk in other states.	VERY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	NEITHER UNLIKELY NOR LIKELY	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY
E. I would not hunt at all.	VERY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	NEITHER UNLIKELY NOR LIKELY	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY

14. Which of the following best describes where you typically hunt Elk in Idaho? (Please check only one response)

- ☐ I TYPICALLY HUNT IN THE SAME ZONE EVERY YEAR.
- ☐ I TYPICALLY HUNT IN DIFFERENT ZONES EACH YEAR.

15. In which zones did you hunt Elk in Idaho during 2011? (Please check all the zones you hunted in 2011)



16. What makes that a desirable zone to hunt Elk? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ IT IS CLOSE TO MY HOME OR CABIN.
- ☐ TRADITION—I ALWAYS HUNT THERE.
- ☐ IT PROVIDES A GOOD CHANCE OF HARVESTING AN ELK.
- ☐ IT HAS THE SEASONS I PREFER.
- ☐ IT IS A GENERAL ZONE THAT I CAN GET EVERY YEAR (*NOT A CONTROLLED HUNT*).
- ☐ THERE ARE NOT MANY HUNTERS THERE COMPETING WITH ME FOR ELK.
- ☐ I CAN ALSO HUNT DEER DURING THE SAME SEASON.
- ☐ IT HAS OHV RESTRICTIONS.

17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only ONE response)

- ☐ Elk numbers have declined abruptly in the last 10 years and Elk are scarce in the zone.
- ☐ Elk numbers have declined in the last 10 years, but still remain relatively abundant.
- ☐ Elk numbers have remained stable in the last 10 years.
- ☐ Elk numbers have increased slightly in the last 10 years.
- ☐ Elk numbers have increased substantially in the last 10 years and Elk are over-abundant.

18. If you hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years please list them below. (Please write in the Zone names)

19. If you have hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years please tell us why you changed zones.
(Please write in your answer)

20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18? (Please write in the name of the zone and number of years)

I HAVE HUNTED IN THE _____ ZONE FOR _____ YEARS.

I HAVE HUNTED IN THE _____ ZONE FOR _____ YEARS.

I HAVE HUNTED IN THE _____ ZONE FOR _____ YEARS.

I HAVE HUNTED IN THE _____ ZONE FOR _____ YEARS.

21. Do you also hunt for Elk in other states? (Please check one response)

☐ YES ☐ NO, Please continue with Q-22 on the next page.

└─→ If YES, please list the states:

22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)

- ☐ PREDATORS
- ☐ HABITAT
- ☐ DISEASE
- ☐ HUNTER HARVEST
- ☐ WEATHER

23. Would you like to be able to hunt in multiple zones in a year for a single Elk? (Please check one response)

☐ YES ☐ NO

24. If YES, would you be willing to pay a higher fee (\$100 more for non-residents; \$30 more for residents) to do so? (Please check one response)

☐ YES ☐ NO

25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (residents, nonresidents and outfitted residents) based on the historical use of the previous 5 years. What has been your experience with this management strategy?

(Please circle one response for each question)

A. Do you hunt in a capped zone?	YES	NO
B. Has "capping a zone" affected where you hunt?	YES	NO
C. Has "capping a zone" caused you to change the zone you hunt in?	YES	NO
D. Do you think the allocation formula based on the previous 5 years of use by the 3 groups is appropriate?	YES	NO

26. If you hunt in a "capped zone" has the Elk hunting changed since it was capped? (Please check one response)

- ☐ ELK HUNTING HAS IMPROVED.
- ☐ ELK HUNTING HAS STAYED THE SAME.
- ☐ ELK HUNTING HAS BECOME WORSE.

In this section we seek an understanding of what you consider when deciding what kind of Elk to hunt and where to hunt them.

27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?

<u>KIND OF ELK</u>	How desirable do you find harvesting each kind of Elk? (Please circle one response for each kind of Elk)			
A. Large Bull (greater than 350 Boone & Crocket points)	NOT VERY DESIRABLE	MODERATELY DESIRABLE	QUITE DESIRABLE	EXTREMELY DESIRABLE
B. Mature Bull (6 points a side)	NOT VERY DESIRABLE	MODERATELY DESIRABLE	QUITE DESIRABLE	EXTREMELY DESIRABLE
C. Raghorn Bull (4-5 points a side)	NOT VERY DESIRABLE	MODERATELY DESIRABLE	QUITE DESIRABLE	EXTREMELY DESIRABLE
D. Spike Elk	NOT VERY DESIRABLE	MODERATELY DESIRABLE	QUITE DESIRABLE	EXTREMELY DESIRABLE
E. Cow Elk	NOT VERY DESIRABLE	MODERATELY DESIRABLE	QUITE DESIRABLE	EXTREMELY DESIRABLE
F. Calf	NOT VERY DESIRABLE	MODERATELY DESIRABLE	QUITE DESIRABLE	EXTREMELY DESIRABLE
G. Any Elk	NOT VERY DESIRABLE	MODERATELY DESIRABLE	QUITE DESIRABLE	EXTREMELY DESIRABLE

28. Below is a list of possible reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho. How important to you is each of the following reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho?

<u>REASONS FOR HUNTING</u>	How important is each reason for hunting Elk in Idaho? (Please circle one response for each reason)				
A. Being close to nature.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
B. Harvesting an antlerless Elk.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
C. Viewing the scenery.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
D. Harvesting any Elk.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
E. Seeing Elk in a natural setting.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
F. Testing my abilities.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
G. Harvesting a large bull. (greater than 350 Boone & Crocket points)	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

REASONS FOR HUNTING

How important is each reason for hunting Elk in Idaho?

(Please circle one response for each reason)

H. Sharing what I have learned with others.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
I. Being with friends.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
J. Harvesting a raghorn bull. (4 or 5 points on a side)	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
K. Learning more about nature.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
L. Doing something with my family.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
M. Putting meat on the table.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
N. Keeping physically fit.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
O. Harvesting any bull.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
P. Developing close friendship with my hunting companions.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
Q. Harvesting a mature bull. (6 points on a side)	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
R. Just being outdoors.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

29. Each of the following characteristics may be things you consider when deciding where to hunt Elk in Idaho. How does each characteristic affect your choice of where to hunt Elk in Idaho?

CHARACTERISTICS

How does each characteristic affect where you decide to hunt Elk in Idaho?

(Please circle one response for each characteristic)

A. An area with few other Elk hunters.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
B. An area that has many Elk but few mature bulls.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
C. An area where I have hunted Elk for many years.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
D. An area where my family can also hunt Elk with me.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
E. Ability to hunt Elk every year.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
F. An area where I can also hunt deer during the Elk season.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

CHARACTERISTICS

How does each characteristic affect where you decide to hunt
Elk in Idaho?
(Please circle one response for each characteristic)

G. An area close to my home or cabin.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
H. An area with a long Elk season.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
I. An area that is remote and hard to reach.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
J. An area that has an early start to the season.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
K. An area where I have access to public lands (Forest Service, BLM).	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
L. An area where I also have access to private lands.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
M. An area where I think I have the greatest chance of harvesting an Elk.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
N. An area that has a late end to the Elk season.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
O. An area where I will not encounter motorized hunters using OHVs.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
P. An area where I am able to use my OHV or other motorized vehicle while hunting Elk.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
Q. An area where I can hunt Elk with the weapon of my choice.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
R. An area where I have the best chance of getting drawn for an Elk hunt.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
S. An area where Wolves are not present.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
T. An area where I can also hunt Wolves.	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)

	I PREFER	I AVOID
A. OPENING DAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. FIRST WEEKEND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. FIRST WEEK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. ANY WEEKEND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. ANY WEEKDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. LAST WEEK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. LAST WEEKEND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. LAST DAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

31. What attributes are important to a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?

ATTRIBUTES OF AN IDAHO ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE	How important is each attribute to the quality of your Idaho Elk hunting experience? (Please circle one response for each attribute)				
	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	QUITE IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
A. Low Elk hunter densities.					
B. Harvesting an Elk.					
C. Seeing harvestable Elk.					
D. Being able to hunt for mature bulls.					
E. Being able to hunt Elk with family and friends.					
F. Being able to hunt Elk every year.					
G. Being able to hunt Elk using an OHV.					
H. Competing only with other Elk hunters on foot or horseback.					
I. Not having competition from other Elk hunters using other forms of transportation (<i>OHV, mountain bike, etc.</i>).					
J. Having the opportunity for reduced price nonresident junior mentored tag.					
K. Having a long Elk season.					

Next, your opinions about some possible management options.

32. Managing to produce more large bull Elk would require reductions in bull harvest. Managers need to know whether hunters are willing make trade-offs between the size of bulls and the amount of opportunity to hunt. (For each of the following pairs of opportunity choices please indicate which one is most favorable to you by circling the appropriate letter) **Please answer every one, even if you do not like either option.**

The opportunity to hunt for a raghorn bull (4 or 5 points a side) every year	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">A</div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">B</div>	The opportunity to hunt for a mature bull (6+ points a side) once every 10 years
The opportunity to hunt for a mature bull (6+ points a side) once every 3 years	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">A</div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">B</div>	The opportunity to hunt for a raghorn bull (4-5 points a side) every year
The opportunity to hunt for a mature bull (6+ points a side) once every 3 years	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">A</div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">B</div>	The opportunity to hunt for a spike bull every year
The opportunity to hunt for a spike bull every year	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">A</div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">B</div>	The opportunity to hunt for a raghorn bull (4 or 5 points a side) once every 3 years
The opportunity to hunt for a cow Elk every year	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">A</div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">B</div>	The opportunity to hunt for a raghorn bull (4 or 5 points a side) once every 3 years
The opportunity to hunt for a mature bull (6+ points a side) once every 3 years	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">A</div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">B</div>	The opportunity to hunt for a cow Elk every year
The opportunity to hunt for a cow Elk every year	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">A</div>	OR	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; line-height: 40px;">B</div>	The opportunity to hunt for a spike bull every year

33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? (Please check one response)

☐ YES
 ☐ NO
 ☐ I DID NOT HUNT ELK IN 2011

34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?

<u>POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS</u>	How do you feel about the following potential ways of Elk hunting? (Please circle one response for each option)			
	FAVOR IT	DO NOT FAVOR, BUT ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE	NEED MORE INFORMATION
A. Longer Seasons.				
B. Choose only one weapon (archery, muzzleloader, rifle).				
C. Choose only one species--Deer or Elk.				

<u>POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS</u>	How do you feel about the following potential ways of Elk hunting? (Please circle one response for each option)			
	FAVOR IT	DO NOT FAVOR, BUT ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE	NEED MORE INFORMATION
D. Controlled hunts.				
E. Stratified hunts (<i>a choice of one of several short seasons (example 5- 7 days).</i>)				
F. Choose an area with the Motorized hunting rule or other travel restrictions.				
G. Choose an area with a capped zone (limited first come first served).				

35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.

<u>POTENTIAL RESTRICTIONS</u>	How you feel about the following <u>potential</u> restrictions? (Please check one response for each restriction)			
	FAVOR IT	DO NOT FAVOR, BUT ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE	NEED MORE INFORMATION
A. Restricting the use of OHVs.				
B. Making some Elk zones foot and horse access only.				
C. Retaining the current spike-only regulations.				
D. Instituting a brow-tine restriction.				
E. Choosing a single weapon for the entire Elk season.				
F. A shorter Elk season (<i>less than 10 days</i>) but being able to hunt Elk every year.				
G. More controlled hunts that provide more and/or larger bulls and higher harvest success, but not being able to hunt Elk every year.				
H. More controlled hunts that provide more and/or larger bulls and higher harvest success, and not being allowed to hunt for Elk if you did not draw a tag.				
I. Being able to purchase an Elk tag only every other year.				

36. IF Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?

CHANGES TO YOUR HUNTING	How likely would you change your behavior? (Please check one response for each attribute)				
	VERY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	NEITHER UNLIKELY NOR LIKELY	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY
A. I would hunt in different zones.					
B. I would quit hunting Elk.					
C. I would shift to hunting other species.					
D. I would not change my hunting behavior.					
E. I would change my weapon type for increased Elk hunting opportunity.					

Now, some questions about the satisfaction you experienced with Elk hunting in Idaho in 2011.

37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?

If you DID NOT Hunt Elk in Idaho in 2011, Please Check Here ☐ and Skip to Q-38 on the next page→→→

ATTRIBUTES OF YOUR 2011 IDAHO ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE	How satisfied were you with your 2011 Idaho Elk hunting experience? (Please check one response for each attribute)				
	VERY DISSATISFI ED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRA L	SATISFIE D	VERY SATISFIE D
A. The number of Elk you saw.					
B. The number of <u>harvestable</u> Elk you saw.					
C. The numbers of bulls you saw.					
D. The length of the Elk season.					
E. The timing of the Elk season.					

ATTRIBUTES OF YOUR 2011 IDAHO ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

How satisfied were you with your 2011 Idaho Elk hunting experience?
(Please check one response for each attribute)

	ED		L	D	D
F. The number of other Elk hunters you encountered.	VERY DISSATISFI ED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRA L	SATISFIE D	VERY SATISFIE D
G. The amount of access.	VERY DISSATISFI ED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRA L	SATISFIE D	VERY SATISFIE D
H. The number of OHVs encountered.	VERY DISSATISFI ED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRA L	SATISFIE D	VERY SATISFIE D
I. The amount of Elk hunting opportunity.	VERY DISSATISFI ED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRA L	SATISFIE D	VERY SATISFIE D
J. Elk harvest success.	VERY DISSATISFI ED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRA L	SATISFIE D	VERY SATISFIE D
K. The opportunity for friends and family to hunt Elk together.	VERY DISSATISFI ED	DISSATISFIED	NEUTRA L	SATISFIE D	VERY SATISFIE D

38. How would you feel about a big game regulation that sets the general season conditions for 2 years in advance, just like the current Moose, Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, upland game, Turkey and fishing regulations? (Please check one response)

FAVOR IT	DO NOT FAVOR, BUT ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE	NEED MORE INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Two questions about predators in Idaho.

39. How do Wolves affect your Idaho Elk hunting experience? (Please circle one response for each item)



A. Does the presence of Wolves affect <u>where</u> you hunt Elk?	YES	NO
B. Is the opportunity to hunt Wolves along with Elk important to you?	YES	NO
C. Did you choose your Elk zone because the negative effect of Wolves have had on your Elk hunting experience?	YES	NO
D. Do you hunt Elk in zones with few Wolves?	YES	NO

40. Do you anticipate Elk numbers to increase now that Idaho Fish and Game is responsible for managing wolves?
(Please check one response)

☐ YES ☐ NO

Finally, some questions about you!

41. Where did you live in 2011? (Please check one response)

	<input type="checkbox"/> DEVELOPED AREA (CITY, TOWN, SUBURB) <u>IN IDAHO</u>		→→ PLEASE CONTINUE WITH Q-43, ON THE NEXT PAGE.
	<input type="checkbox"/> RURAL AREA <u>IN IDAHO</u>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> DEVELOPED AREA (CITY, TOWN, SUBURB) OUT-OF-STATE		
	<input type="checkbox"/> RURAL AREA OUT-OF-STATE		

42. How long have you lived in Idaho? (Please enter the number of years) _____ YEARS

43. When were you born? (Please enter the year) I WAS BORN IN 19_____

44. Do you have any physical conditions such as vision or hearing impairment, or any condition that limits your ability to perform activities such as walking, climbing, reaching, lifting, or carrying? (Please check one)

☐ YES ☐ NO

45. Are you: (Please check one)

☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

46. Are you: (Please check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC OR LATINO/LATINA
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER
<input type="checkbox"/> AFRICAN AMERICAN	<input type="checkbox"/> WHITE

47. During the 2011 hunting season were you: (Please check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYED FULL-TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED
<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYED PART-TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> HOMEMAKER
<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEMPLOYED

We would appreciate your answering the last question. If, however you feel this is a private matter we respect your decision to not answer.

48. Which of the following best describes your gross family income before taxes in 2011? (Please check only one response)

- ☐ LESS THAN \$20,000
- ☐ \$20,000-\$39,999
- ☐ \$40,000-\$59,999
- ☐ \$60,000-\$79,999
- ☐ \$80,000-\$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000-\$119,999
- ☐ \$120,000-\$139,999
- ☐ \$140,000-\$159,999
- ☐ \$160,000-\$179,999
- ☐ \$180,000 OR MORE

Thank you for your help. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about Elk hunting in Idaho? We would appreciate any comments.

To return your completed questionnaire, simply mail it back in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:

ELK HUNTER SURVEY
STATE OF IDAHO
PO BOX 25
BOISE, ID 83707-9973

Thank you

Department of Conservation Social Sciences; College of Natural Resources; University of Idaho

Executive Summary

ELK HUNTING IN IDAHO: UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF HUNTERS

Prepared by:

**Nick Sanyal, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Ed Krumpe, Ph.D., Professor, and Alexandria Middleton, Research Assistant
Department of Conservation Social Sciences, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho,**

For:

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game
August 2012**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The main goal of this study of Idaho Elk hunters is to provide the Idaho Department of Fish and Game representative information about the views of elk hunters in Idaho. Descriptions of who they are, what their preferences and motivations are, how they make decisions about where to hunt, and their opinions on various Elk management issues were collected in the summer of 2012. This study is the first comprehensive investigation of Idaho Elk hunters since a similar study was conducted by the University of Idaho over 20 years ago in 1988-89, and provides an important update to knowledge about Elk hunters. The results provided here, in combination with biological data, are key to continuing to improve wildlife planning and management in the state of Idaho.

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

This current study was designed to provide contemporary data for the quantification of the following characteristics of a sample Idaho Elk hunters:

1. Hunting Elk hunter profiles (basic demographics, travel patterns, hunting history, harvest success, zone use);
2. Elk hunting preferences and motivations;
3. Acceptability of current and proposed management strategies and the trade-offs involved;
4. Decisions about where to hunt;
5. Attributes of a quality Elk hunting experience;
6. Hunting satisfaction; and
7. Perceptions of predators

METHODS

Survey research using a mail back and web-based instrument was used to collect data from stratified random samples of hunters licensed to hunt Elk in 2011 Idaho. This study uses a

differential design (Graziano & Raulin, 2007), seeking to understand selected characteristics of groups designated on the basis of preexisting variables. The questionnaire (survey instrument) was designed with input from representatives of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The instrument was pre-tested on a convenience sample of Moscow, Idaho, residents who had similar recreational propensities that the study required.

SAMPLING

The sample was a stratified random sample of Idaho residents:

- Mailed to 6,200 hunters who purchased a general Elk tag in 2011.
- Sample was stratified by the 29 Elk hunting zones
- Random sample of 200 resident and 20 nonresident hunters in each of the 29 elk zones.
- N=6,200 hunters (18 or older) from all Idaho Elk hunting licenses in 2011 (data from Idaho Department of Fish and Game)

A total of 2,786 useable questionnaires were returned and used in the analyses, which is a 48.5% response rate after accounting for undeliverable instruments and refusals. This response is judged to be adequate to produce a statistically representative sample of the population of Idaho Elk hunters at $\pm 10\%$ level of accuracy.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

- ❖ Idaho Elk hunters are very experienced, the majority of whom have hunted Elk in Idaho every year since 2005.
- ❖ Hunters most frequently travel on foot when hunting, and they almost never use mountain bikes.
- ❖ The majority of Elk hunters typically use a rifle to hunt. About a third use a compound bow.
- ❖ The 3 primary reasons hunters decide to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons is to hunt when fewer hunters are afield, to hunt during the rut, and for the adventure of hunting with these types of weapons.
- ❖ Overall, hunters are fairly successful in harvesting Elk in Idaho, averaging about 23% over the past 10 years.
- ❖ Almost all Idaho Elk hunters are dedicated to the sport, and if for some reason they could not hunt Elk in Idaho, they would miss it a great deal. If they could not hunt Elk in Idaho, hunters reported they would spend more time hunting other big game, or they would hunt Elk in other states.
- ❖ The majority of Elk hunters typically hunt in the same zone every year.
- ❖ When asked what makes the zone they hunted in 2011 desirable, half the hunters said a zone that was close to their home or cabin, and half said a general zone that they can get every year (not a controlled hunt) was most desirable.
- ❖ One-half of the Elk hunters perceive that in 2011 Elk numbers have declined abruptly in the last 10 years and Elk are scarce in the zone they hunted.

- ❖ Elk hunters have hunted in their preferred zones on average for over 14 years. Those who hunted Elk in other states most frequently did so in Montana, Colorado and Wyoming.
- ❖ Three-quarters of the hunters believe predators are the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone they hunted.
- ❖ A large majority would like to be able to hunt in multiple zones, and over one-half would be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.
- ❖ Almost half of the Elk hunters have experience hunting in a capped zone. Generally, capping has not had much effect on hunting behavior. A majority of hunters felt that Elk hunting has become worse since the zone they hunt in was “capped.”

ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

- ❖ Hunters reported that harvesting a mature bull (6 points a side) or a large bull (greater than 350 Boone & Crockett points) was most desirable.
- ❖ When asked how important various reasons were to them for hunting Elk, the top 6 reasons were “just being outdoors,” “seeing Elk in a natural setting,” “being close to nature,” “viewing scenery,” “being with friends,” and “doing something with my family.”
- ❖ The motivations associated with harvesting Elk were of less importance than these reasons that describe being immersed in the natural setting. In almost every case, Idaho Elk hunters prefer to preserve the amount of opportunity to hunt over hunting for large bull Elk.

ACCEPTABILITY OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND THE TRADE-OFFS INVOLVED

- ❖ Elk hunters generally favored 5 of 7 potential ways to improve Elk hunting, if needed. The most favorable or acceptable was to choose only 1 weapon such as archery, muzzleloader, or rifle.
- ❖ A majority of Elk hunters clearly found 3 potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and to improve Elk hunting opportunities to be favorable or acceptable. Over 70% favored making some Elk zones foot and horse access only, restricting the use of OHVs, and choosing a single weapon for the entire Elk season.

A clear majority found it unacceptable to be restricted to being able to purchase an Elk tag only every other year, having more controlled hunts that provide larger animals but not being able to hunt Elk every year, and more controlled hunts but not being able to hunt Elk every year if you did not draw a tag.

- ❖ Seventy-two percent of the Elk hunters said that that it was unlikely or very unlikely that they would quit hunting Elk if IDFG introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve populations.
- ❖ A majority of the Elk hunters feel it would be acceptable to have a big game regulation that sets the general season conditions for 2 years in advance, but almost 30% said that they would need more information.

WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

- ❖ The top 5 characteristics that affected their choice of where to hunt Elk in Idaho were the ability to hunt every year, an area where they have access to public lands, an area where they think they have the greatest chance of harvesting an Elk, an area where wolves are not present, and an area with few other Elk hunters.
- ❖ Elk hunters primarily prefer to hunt on any weekday, on the last week of the season or the first week of the season. They tend to avoid the first weekend, any weekend in general and opening day.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

- ❖ Attributes that define a quality Elk hunting experience center on preserving the hunting opportunity. Most important were being able to hunt for Elk every year and seeing a harvestable Elk.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

- ❖ One-third of hunters felt that there were times when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from their hunting experience. The 4 aspects Elk hunters were most satisfied with in 2011 were the opportunity for friends and family to hunt Elk together, the timing of the Elk season, the length of the season, and the amount of Elk hunting opportunity.
- ❖ They were least satisfied with the number of bulls seen, the number of harvestable Elk seen, the number of Elk seen, and Elk harvest success.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

- ❖ Three-quarters of the Elk hunters reported that the presence of wolves affected where they hunt Elk, and just over one-half said the opportunity to hunt Wolves along with Elk is important to them.
- ❖ Close to one-half (46.5%) hunt Elk in zones with few Wolves.
- ❖ Over two-thirds (64%) said they did not choose their Elk zone because of the negative effect Wolves have had on their Elk hunting experience.
- ❖ Almost two-thirds of the Elk hunters anticipate Elk numbers will increase now that IDFG is responsible for managing wolves.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- ❖ The respondents have a considerable amount of experience hunting in Idaho, averaging almost 50 years of Idaho hunting experience.
- ❖ Idaho Elk hunters also hunt for other species, notable Mule deer and upland game/birds.
- ❖ Idaho Elk hunters have lived in Idaho an average of 33 years and have an average age of 49.3 years.